

DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

Please enter the Replacement Sheets for FIGS. 2-6.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 11 remain in the application and under consideration. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 12-18 are withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requested that the lead line from the number 39 include an arrowhead.

Replacement sheets have been provided and address the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner noted a typographical mistake in paragraph 0038 as previously presented.

Paragraph 0038 has been corrected.

The Examiner objected to the claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner identified specific phrases in the previously presented version of claim 1 that were considered to be indefinite.

The claims have been amended to address the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over JP2002-002288 in view of Gordon. The Examiner concluded that the Japanese reference shows an arrangement for guiding a cable between a sliding door on a vehicle and the body of the vehicle. The Examiner acknowledged that the Japanese reference has no suggestion of a cable guide. However, the Examiner turned to

Gordon and concluded that Gordon shows a cable guide 24. Accordingly, the Examiner concluded that it would be obvious to combine the cable guide of Gordon with the arrangement taught by the Japanese reference.

The Japanese reference shows a cable that extends between a vehicle body and door without the benefit of a cable guide. The cable 4 is fixed in a slider 3 so that one portion of the cable 4 extends from the slider 3 to the door 1 without the benefit of a cable guide. Another part 4a of the cable 4 extends from the slider 3 to a box 7 mounted on a step of the motor vehicle body 5. The portion 4a of the cable 4 that extends into the box 7 is formed into a loop 29 in the box 7 and can expand or contract to absorb a looseness of the wire 4a between the slider 3 and the vehicle body 5. FIG. 2 of the Japanese reference shows that the unguided cable 4 will move in and out of the opening in the box 7 along the direction indicated by the arrow C. This longitudinal movement of the cable 4 through the opening in the box 7 subjects the cable 4 to wear each time the vehicle door once is opened and closed. Gordon shows an arrangement where a slider 14 is mounted for linear movement along a rail. The cable guide 24 extends from the slider 14 to a structure 20 that the Examiner compares to the fixing portion of the subject invention. Gordon does not show the wire extending through the slider 14, but rather appears to show the wire being terminated in a control unit 16 on the slider 14. Thus, Gordon does not have any structure comparable to the length of the cable 4a of the Japanese reference or the box 7 and the coil 28 of the Japanese reference.

Nothing in the Japanese reference or Gordon suggests their hypothetical combination. However, the combination of these two references presumably would include some version of the box 7 and the coil 28 that permits the cable 4a to expand and contract through an opening in the box 7.

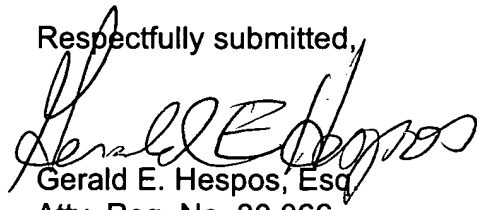
Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the cable as extending through the fixing passage of the fixing portion, through the guide passage of the cable guide and through the slider passage of the slider. Additionally, amended claim 1 defines the cable as having a spanning part that extends from the slider. The spanning part of the cable has a door-side end fixed to the slider and a body side end spaced from the slider. Claim 1 also has been amended to define a fixing member that supports the body side end of the spanning part so that the spanning part is pivotal relative to the fixing member and the slider. Support for this limitation is provided in paragraph 0047 and in FIGS. 13A-13H which clearly demonstrate a pivotal movement. The pivotal movement positively recited in the amendment claim 1 when combined with the cable guide provides significantly enhanced protection for the cable as compared to the unprotected arrangement shown in the Japanese reference. Gordon has no teaching for a spanning part extending beyond the Gordon slider 14. Hence, the hypothetical combination of Gordon and the Japanese reference would suffer from the deficiencies of the Japanese reference with the cable sliding into and out of an opening in a box each time the door is opened or closed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention defined by amendment independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 5-

8 are not taught or suggested by the hypothetical combination of the Japanese reference and Gordon.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over the Japanese reference considered in view of Gordon and further in view of Ayran. The Ayran reference was cited merely to show the engagement of a slider with rail.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos", is written over the typed name and contact information.

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